

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRAGA. 403

He said that no men died at the hands of justice, that 681
they flogged many, and put out the eyes of some, and of
others they cut off a foot or a hand, according to the quality
the crime; but that he had seen a man burned because he
was found to have committed two robberies in a church.

That the Pope or Patriarch of the country of Prester 793
John is called Abima, which means father, and that there is
nobody else in all the kingdoms and lordships of the Prester
who confers orders except him.

The Prester John is called Acegue,¹ which means em- 643
peror, and he is called Neguz, which means king.

There is no manner of physic, only they apply fire; in some 752
sickness they use cupping without fire, and for headaches, 757
they bleed on the head with a knife placed on the vein,
and they strike it with a stick so that it should draw
blood, and also they take some herbs as a beverage to cure
themselves.

In all the country there is no town which exceeds one thou- 621
sand six hundred inhabitants, and of these there are few, and 361
there are no walled towns or castles, but villages without num-
ber. The houses generally, or most of them, are round, and 342
all of one story, covered with terraces or thatch, and court-
yards round them. People generally sleep on ox-hides, others 352
on beds made of straps of the same hides; no kind of table.
They eat in flat trenchers, like trays of great width, without 415
napkins or tablecloths. They have basins of very black 264
earthenware like jet, and pipkins of the same clay for
drinking water and wine. Many eat raw meat, and others 262
eat it roasted on the ashes, others roasted over woodfire, 252
and others over cowdung where there is no wood. There is 373
much wax there, and tapers and candles; they do not make
candles of tallow. There is no oil there except a kind which 314
they call *hena*, and which is made from some herbs like
Mayweed;² it has no taste, and is beautiful as gold. There 000

¹ *Acegue*, an Emperor.

² *Panpilhos*, also called *olho de boi*.